REMARKS

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 6 and 25-26 have been amended, to place this application in immediate condition for allowance.

In the outstanding Office Action, the only ground of rejection lodged is against all of the pending Claims 1-6, 15-18 and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In making this ground of rejection, the Examiner has alleged that certain recitations are confusing and awkwardly written. The Examiner has requested that Claim 1 be amended to clearly and precisely point out exactly what is being referred to by the "different lengths."

Accordingly, Claim 1 has been thoroughly revised and amended to render it fully definite under the purview of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In particular, independent Claim 1 has been amended in the following respects:

The bundling portion is now recited as connecting the fibers along a direction "of extension" that crosses the longitudinal direction of the fibers with the bundling portion "having edges extending generally parallel to said direction of extension." Further, the fiber bundle is recited as comprising movable portions which have respectively different lengths (1) between "respective edges of the bundling portion and portions of the fibers bonded by the adhesive, and (2) between distal ends of the fibers in the longitudinal direction thereof and the portions of the fibers bonded by the adhesive."

In order to clearly explain these recitations in independent Claim 1, attached to this Amendment is Exhibit 1 consisting of (a) a recitation of independent Claim 1 with reference numerals and letters which may be viewed on (b) a copy of the sheet of drawings including Figures 8 and 9 with the reference numerals and letters either printed thereon or handwritten thereon. Thus, with reference to Exhibit 1, the longitudinal direction of alignment of the fiber bundle is shown as the double-headed arrow referred to by reference letter "W." The direction of extension of the bundling portion (40) is shown by the double-headed arrow "Y." The edges of the bundling portion are identified with the reference letters "A" and "B." The portions of the fibers bonded by the adhesive are shown with the reference letter "C" and coincide with the adhesive spots 51. The distal ends of the fibers are designated by the reference numeral 21 in Figure 8. Thus, reviewing Claim 1 as shown in Exhibit 1 along with Figures 8-9 shown in Exhibit 1 with the reference letters and numbers thereon, the limitations of independent Claim 1 should be clearly understood. Applicant submits that these amendments to independent Claim 1 render the claim fully definite.

Additionally, the amendments to independent Claim 1 have necessitated minor formal amendments to dependent Claims 6, 25 and 26 which are self-explanatory. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that as a result of these amendments, all of the pending claims are now fully definite. As such, it is

submitted that the basis for the ground of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, no longer exists. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the ground of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are respectfully solicited. Based upon withdrawal of that ground of rejection, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited.

If, for any reason, the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicant's Attorney would be helpful in expediting the prosecution of this patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's Attorney locally at (703) 619-0101, so that a discussion of any outstanding issues may be had.

Again, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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EXHIBIT 1